the facts ABOUT THE PALESTINE PROBLEM

A monthly bulletin produced by « The Arab Women's Information Committee».
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THE BACKGROUND

More gems from Herzl

« We are not asking for Jerusalem, but for Palestine — only the secular land. »

(The Complete Diaries of Theodore Herzl, *Vol. III, p. 1604*)

« We would rally on Cyprus and one day go over to Eretz Israel and take it by force. »

(The Complete Diaries of Theodore Herzl, *Vol. III, p. 1023*)

« In the world as it now is, might precedes right. »

(The Jewish State *by Theodore Herzl, pub London Central Office of the Zionist Organisation, 1934, p. 15, 2nd edition*)

« We shall sell only to Jews, and all real estate will be traded only among Jews. »

(The Complete Diaries of Theodore Herzl., *Vol. I, p. 89*)

Editor's note :

This is not a magazine, nor even a newsletter. No attempt will be made at long-winded analysis or description. It is literally a «factual» sheet.

FACTS will try to present the facts of the Palestine Problem. We think these will speak for themselves and need no comment or elaboration. It is this ignorance of the facts by the outside world that has been responsible for much of the human suffering that has taken place in Palestine. It is time that the facts were known. Only on their basis can disinterested and fair-minded people reach objective and intelligent conclusion. To help such people is our objective.

FACTS is produced by the Arab Women's Information Committee, a voluntary, non-professional, non.profit and private organization of Arab women living in Beirut, Lebanon, who have been appalled at the manner in which the Palestine Problem has been presented in the English-speaking press during these last months.

FACTS will be divided into two sections, the first dealing with background material, the second with current developments. It will appear on a monthly basis. We also hope to be able to publish supplements on specific issues as the occasion arises.

The background section will comprise direct quotations from Zionist writings to illustrate Zionist ideological and strategic thought, statistics pertaining to various aspects of the Palestine Problem, and summaries of the more important historical events and developments of the problem.

The selection of this material is necessarily arbitrary, but it is hoped that as much ground can be covered in successive issues of **FACTS** as space permits.

As to the section on current developments, it will focus attention on the developments that have taken place since 5 June 1967.

We shall endeavour throughout to give detailed references for all the material that we publish. We hope that our efforts will contribute, however modestly, to a better understanding of the Arab point of view on the Palestine Problem.

FACTS welcomes all comments, suggestions and inquiries by its readers.

Israel and the U. N.

Dag Hammerskold warned : « Remember, whatever you do you will never have the whole-hearted cooperation of the Israelis. »
(Soldiering for Peace *by Carl Von Horn, p. 262*)

«I always had a talk with staff members who were leaving the Mission... I found it sad but very significant that when I asked them what their most negative experience had been during their service with UNTSO the reply was almost invariable — 'the consistent cheating and deception of the Israelis'».
(Soldiering for Peace *by Carl Von Horn, p. 283*)

« Problems were numerous and varied along the Israeli-Arab borders but one of the most aggravating to the U.N. Military Observers was the Israelis' attitude concerning their freedom of movement along the frontiers ». (Violent Truce *by E.H. Hutchison, p. 79*)

The Foreign Minister of Israel, Abba Ebban, clarifies his attitude on the U.N. «The United Nations must realize that it has no moral right in imposing a solution in the Middle East ».
(*A.F.P., 6 September 1967,* L'Orient)

The Arabs under Israeli Rule

« The bulk of Israel's Arab population is subject to a military rule that denies them the rights of any free citizen. They have no freedom of movement or residence. They are not accepted as equal members of the trade unions and are not employed on the same basis as others in most organizations or government departments. Their entire life depends on the good grace of the military governors and their aides ».
(Ihud Party Statement, *signed by Professors Martin Buber, A. Bonne and E. Simon of the Hebrew University, Jerusalem, 1958*)

« 80% of Israeli Arabs live under military rule... no moving outside one's zone or from one zone to another without a pass. The military governor controlled your livelihood, your social life and your family life. He has spies and informers. Military power was used to evacuate whole villages which were settled with Jews later ». (*Walter Schwartz,* The Arabs in Israel, *p. 86*)

In 1958, the Israeli Government advanced still another step in providing legislation for the further confiscation of Arab lands by the enactment of the law of limitations. This law required landowners who do not have registered titles to produce evidence that they have been in continuous undisputed possession of their lands for 15 years or forfeit them to the Israeli Government. The period required was at first 50 years, later reduced to 15. (The State of Israel was established in 1948). (*Sami Hadawi,* Bitter Harvest, *p. 215*)

« According to the Military Emergency Regulations imposed on the Arabs in Israel 'The Military Governor will declare an Arab area a prohibited zone thus debarring entry to an Arab wishing to tend his land. The 1953 law is then invoked and agricultural lands become liable to confiscation, since the owners have failed to till and tend their lands themselves. This means that the property of the Arabs automatically becomes the property of the State ». (*How Israel treats her Arabs,* Mercury *Magazine, August 1957*)

Statements by non-Zionists

«It is not more true to say that a British Jew and a Moroccan Jew belong to the same nation than to say that a Christian Frenchman and a Christian Englishman belong to the same nation ».

(*Sir Edwin Montagu quoted in* Les Temps Modernes, *Le Conflit Israelo-Arabe, p. 98*)

« The Arabs do not need to be in a hurry. The crusaders occupied this country once, but after a hundred years they were driven out. It will be the same with this Jewish State. It is completely artificial, it is really only a colony — a colony of the West, or at least of the Jews of the West, and even with their continued support, it will live only precariously. In course of time, and under Arab pressure, it will wither away and disappear — like so many other states in this theatre of age-old conflict between dynasties, people and races ». (Between Arab and Israeli *by General E.L.M. Burns, p. 31*)

« Israel can never aggressively fight her way to lasting acceptance in the Middle East ». (Violent Truce *by E.H. Hutchison, p. 121*)

Jewish Apartheid in Palestine

a) Jewish Agency's land holding and employment legslation

In Article 3, *paragraph (d)* reads :
« Land is to be acquired as Jewish property... in the name of the Jewish National Fund... and shall be held as the inelienable property of the Jewish people ».
And *paragraph (e)* reads :
« The Agency shall promote agricultural colonization based on *Jewish labour,* and in all works or undertakings carried out or furthered by the Agency, it shall be deemed to be a matter of principle that *Jewish labour* shall be employed ».

(*Report on Immigration, Land Settlement and Development in Palestine,* by Sir John Hope-Simpson, *1930, p. 53*)

b) Keren-Kayemeth (Jewish National Fund) Legislation

Article 23 reads :
« The lessee undertakes to execute all works connected with the cultivation of the holding *only with Jewish labour* ».

(Ibid)

c) Keren-Hayezod (Foundation Fund) agreements

Article 7 reads :
«The settler hereby undertakes... if and whenever he may be obliged to hire help, he will hire *Jewish workmen only* ».
Article II reads :
« The settler undertakes... not to hire any outside labour *except Jewish labourers* ».

(Ibid)

Statistics

« In the early 1960's, Israel's population was growing at the average annual rate of about 3.6%, 2% of which was in immigration and only 1.6% through natural increase ».

(*From* The Arabs and Israel *by Charles Douglas-Home, quoted in* The Times, *21 May 1968*)

Before 1967, there were 1,316,000 refugees registered with UNRWA. This number increased to 1,588,000 after the June War.

50% of the refugees are under 18 years old.

8% of the refugees receive no aid whatsoever.

66% receive full aid.

There are 54 camps run by UNRWA in the Arab countries. UNRWA also runs 431 schools. 45% of the school-children are girls. UNRWA estimates that 5 U.S. cents a day are spent on each refugee, providing him with 1,550 calories a day.

(UNRWA Report, *1967*)

However a ceiling has been put on the number of refugees eligible for rations due to the natural increase in population. Thus we find that in Jordan for instance, one third of the refugees are on waiting lists and receive no rations. Thus the average refugee in Jordan receives under 1,000 calories a day, slightly less than the average diet of inmates of concentration camps in Germany in the Second World War.

(Middle East Forum, *Vol. XII, No. 2*)

The Reluctant Ingathering or the Mystical Pull of the Promised Land.

«Shall we find enough Jews for the Jewish State?»
(David Ben Gurion at the eleventh session of the Provisional State Council of Israel, 22 July 1948).

The Prime Minister of Israel, Levi Eshkol, stated at a Zionist General Council meeting that : The Zionist movement had let him down. The World Zionist Organization had failed completely to organize immigration from the Western World. There were 400.000 Jewish students in the West, yet fewer than 2,000 had come to Israel. (Jewish Observer, *12 January 1967*).

While only 460 Jews went to Israel from Cuba, 4.000 Cuban Jews had emigrated to the United States. Similarly while 600 Jews from the Congo had emigrated to Belgium, only 70 had settled in Israel. (Jewish Chronicle, *18 May 1962 and 23 May 1962*).

«Jewish refuges loath to go to Israel. Only 900 of 14.000 (Hungarian) Jews have acceptled the invitation».

(New York Times, *29 December 1956*).

«From the time of the establishment of the State of Israel in 1948 up to 1955, only 2,013 American and Canadian Jews emigrated to Israel. (The Decadence of Judaism in Our Time *by Moshe Menuhin, p. 144*).

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

A BENEVOLENT OCCUPATION ?

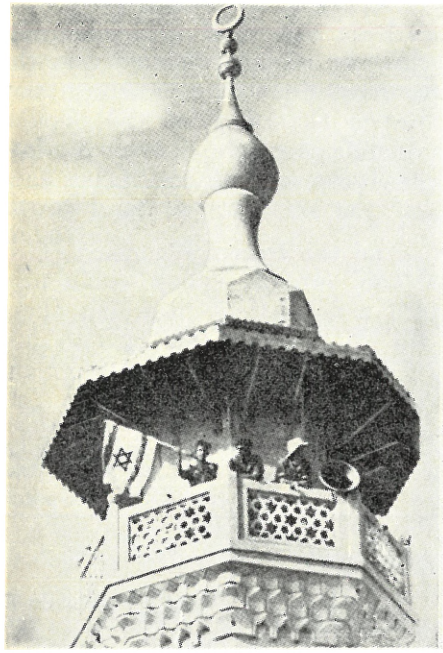
« The 12th Century Crusader church of Saint Anne has been very seriously wrecked by (Israeli) heavy artillery, and the huge wooden doors of Al-Aksa mosque were reduced to match-wood ».

(The Times, *10 June 1967*)

« Israeli soldiers on the West Bank of the Jordan River have shot two Red Cross representatives near King Abdullah Bridge ».

(*A.P., 24 June 1967*, Al-Anwar)

During a London Press Conference, John Reddaway, Deputy Commissioner-General of UNRWA, stated that about 16,000 people became homeless as a result of recent Israeli destruction of West Bank villages. (Al-Anwar, *21 July 1967*)



David Holden reports : « On November 7... 10 men were caught in a cave by Israeli soldiers. Seven were killed, three captured. The next day, the Israelis razed nine houses in Sheukh, damaged 40 or 50 others by the blast, and arrested eight men... General Narkiss told me that arms had been found in six of the houses and all the arrested men had been incriminated by evidence found on the men in the cave. The villagers told me they had no arms and knew none of the alleged guerillas... In three refugee camps 200 men were arrested... In Gaza, according to UNRWA sources that I believe to be reliable, 144 inhabited houses in a refugee camp were bulldozed in a single night, and a recent communal grave in the camp contained 23 bodies ».

(The Sunday Times, *19 November 1967*)

« Five girl pupils of a secondary school in the Gaza Strip were shot and wounded this morning as armed military and civilian motorists dispersed girls stoning traffic on the highway... they were taken to hospital... four other girls were detained ».

(The Times, *27 May 1968*)

The Happy Unification of Jerusalem

« Arabs were allowed today to visit their old homes occupied by Jews since 1948 in the western sector of Jerusalem. What Israel calls the « happy unification of Jerusalem » was a heartbreaking experience for many Arabs who stood outside houses they owned and could not get into them as they were occupied by other people ».

(*U.P.I., 11 July 1967*, L'Orient)

« This meeting in Jerusalem of Jew and Arab as conqueror and conquered is a catastrophe ». This is closer to reality than «The dreamy image of a feast of peace» with which Israeli officials and so many foreign journalists have sought to describe the situation here ».

(The Sunday Times, *23 July 1967*)

The Mayor of Israeli Jerusalem, Teddy Kollek, said : «We failed completely in our efforts at psychological and social integration of the Arab population in Jerusalem ». (*A.P., 21 February*, L'Orient)

«What is clear is that no new Jerusalem is being built in the Holy Land. There is simply this sad old Jerusalem whose treatment by Israel may well prove the crux of whether there is peace or war.»

(The Economist, *4 May 1968*)

SENSITIVE AND INSENSITIVE ISRAELIS

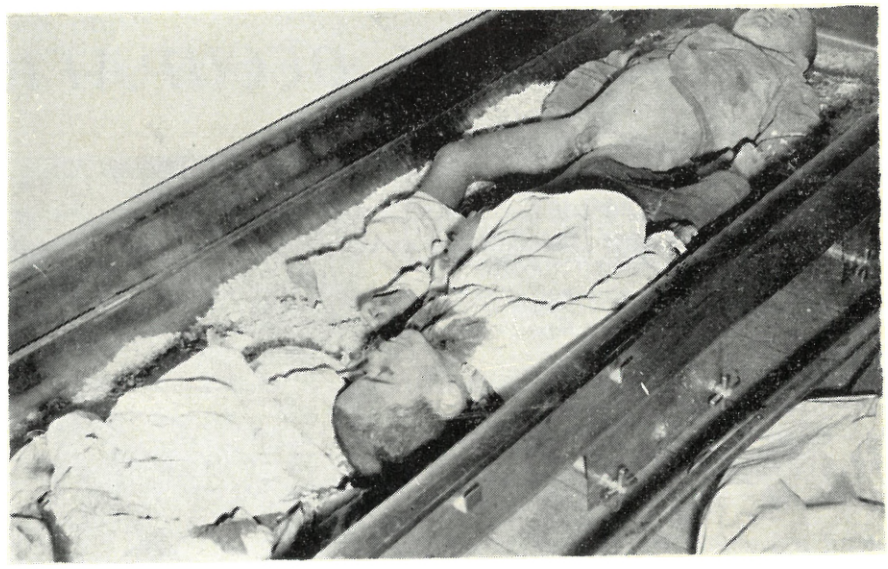
David Pinsky, the famous Yiddish-American dramatist and author from Israel, «tells of one Israeli woman, a mother of two children, who occupied the home of a former well-to-do Arab family. The house was spacious; the garden well kept. One day the children discovered a closet full of toys which belonged to the children of the exiled Arab family. The children were overjoyed with their find and began to play noisily with the toys. But the mother was suddenly struck by the thought that 'her children were playing with the toys of Arab children who were now exiled and homeless. She began to brood. Where were those children whose toys were being played with by her own children ? Have they a roof over their heads? A bed to sleep in or a toy to play with ? What right have her children to be happy at the expense of the unhappiness of others ? She ordered the children to put the toys back into the closet and forbade them to play with them. But this did not restore her peace of mind. What right had she and her family to occupy a house which does not belong to her ? Is she not doing to the Arabs what the Nazis did to her and her family ? »

(Voice of Dissent *by William Zuckerman, Bookman Associates, Inc., New York, 1964, p. 141*)

« Some of those (Arabs) who had lived in the Israeli part of Jerusalem before 1948 sought out their former homes. One Israeli housewife said : « They came up and rang the bell and said very politely : This is our house. Why don't you give it back to us ? It was uncanny. They showed no sign of impatience or anxiety, no sense of time elapsed ».

(New York Times Magazine, *13 July 1967*) *(Ed. Note : After the 1948 war, Israel occupied the western half of Jerusalem against the U. N. General Assembly's decision to internationalize the city. After the 1967 war, the Israelis annexed the eastern half of the city under the pretext of unification.)*

GENERAL DAYAN'S DREAM OF PEACE



Children of Irbid *To prevent their transgression into Israel »*

Havoc Across the Border

In 1955 General Dayan said that « retaliatory actions were punitive actions, not revenge. They were also a warning that if the government concerned did not itself impose discipline on its citizens and prevent their transgressions in Israel, Israeli forces would play havoc across the border ».

(Between Arab and Israeli *by General E.L. M. Burns, p. 63, quoting the* Jerusalem Post)

Another Necessary Punitive Action

On 4 June 1968, Israel launched a large-scale attack against the town of Irbid in Jordan : 30 people were killed and 59 injured. In this attack Israel used for the first time land-to-land rockets.

(The Times, *5 June 1968*)

An Appreciative Public

« After the raid on Jordan, for which Israel was condemned by the Security Council, a poll in Israel showed that 87% of the population was in favour of raids against the Arabs ».

(*AFP, 3 April 1968,* L'Orient)

... And the Desert Blooms

« The Jordan Valley could turn into a battlefield in which there will be no room for civilian life, for families, children, cattle or agriculture ».

(*General Moshe Dayan,* Time *magazine, 3 May 1968*)

ANTI-SEMITISM AS A ZIONIST NECESSITY

On a recent visit to New York, the Grand Rabbi of Moscow, Yehuda Leib Levin, declared that there was no discrimination against the Jews in the Soviet Union and denied the existence of anti-semitism in the U.S.S.R. The Grand Rabbi was booed and had to climb down from the platform.

(*A.F.P. 21 June 1968,* L'Orient)

« The Jews in Russia, like the Jews in the U.S., are treated wonderfully. They are given first class opportunities in medicine, art, music, law etc... They occupy positions of strength and influence beyond all proportions ».

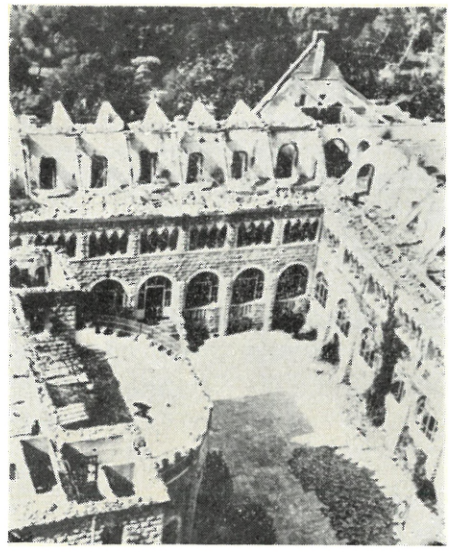
(*Moshe Menuhin,* San Jose Mercury, *California, 22 March 1968*)

The Grand Rabbi of Egypt stated : « We are Egyptians like any other person living here. The Jews in Egypt are not discriminated against ».

(*Reuter, 15 October 1967,* L'Orient)

THE AUGUSTA VICTORIA HOSPITAL DURING AND AFTER THE BOMBING IN JUNE, 1967

DURING



AFTER

How Pure Can a Lie Be ?

Commander Gur, in charge of the attack on the Jerusalem section in the June 1967 War says : « I can assure you and promise you there was not any and I repeat not any attack by our airforce on any built-up area... Augusta Victoria was untouched. It is a pure lie, we never used the airforce, not only napalm ».

(Press Conference at the U.N., July 1967)

Describing the attack on Jerusalem, led by the same Commander Gur of the Israeli High Command, the American Life Magazine says: «Four Israeli jets dropped napalm canisters on the Augusta Victoria hospital in Jerusalem».

(Life *Magazine, 3 July 1967*)

Smaller Lies ?

« Every individual Arab who wishes to stay in his place of residence and to live in peace with his neighbours can do so ».

(Official Israeli Government statement *reported in the* Guardian, *24 June 1967*)

But on the same day, the Christian Science Monitor **reported : « ...People are forced out of their homes at a few hours notice. Their homes are blown up and plowed under by bulldozers ».**

(Christian Science Monitor, *24 June 1967*)

PREVARICATIONS

Some things are for public consumption

« It is Egypt who is responsible for the failure of the Jarring mission. Israel would not wish the failure of Mr Jarring, on the contrary. We simply don't understand Egypt's attitude ».

(Mr. Abba Ebban, Foreign Minister of Israel. at a press conference reported by Le Monde *14 March 1968)*

Others are only said in private

« Israel should not under any circumstances accept the U.N. Resolution of 22 November 1967. It is the attitude of the United States that matters not decisions by the Security Council ».

(General Dayan, reported by Le Monde, *20 June 1968)*

« It was with surprise and embarassment that the Minister of Defense, General Moshe Dayan, saw in the evening press in Israel some of the declarations he had made in private to the Israeli Labour Party, Rafi ».

(Declaration by a Defense Ministry spokesman reported in Le Monde, *20 June 1968)*

How to Expand, by Three Israeli Ministers

1. **Dayan's Plan :** To establish and maintain military encampments throughout the West Bank. Minimal interference in local affairs BUT no Arab political leadership to be allowed to develop above the local level.

2. **Allon's Plan.** Settle the occupied territories including the Syrian Heights and the Gaza Strip with permanent paramilitary settlements to incorporate the Syrian Heights, the Gaza Strip and the Western Bank into Israel. To set up an autonomous Arab state from the north-west area around Jenin and Nablus and the Hebron hills south of Jerusalem. This state would either be independent or affiliated to Jordan and would be offered a corridor to Haifa and another corridor east to Jordan. The refugees would be resettled within this state and the Gaza refugees resettled in agricultural settlements in the northern part of the Sinai peninsula. Much of Sinai would be offered to Egypt in exchange for a peace settlement and guarantees.

3. **Begin's Plan.** To annex all the occupied territories and disenfranchise their Arab inhabitants.

(Ed. Note : Mr. Menahim Begin was leader of the terrorist Irgun Organization in 1948 and is at present Minister without Portfolio in the Israeli Cabinet).

Concerning these plans, the London weekly the **Economist** said on 22 June 1968 : « They have a lot to do with the intense political skirmishing to get next into line for the premiership ».

EXPANSIONISM

Israel announces the expropriation of 838 acres of the Jordanian sector of Jerusalem.

U.S. officials regard this move as the third step by Israel to enlarge its jurisdiction, by unilateral action, over Arab territories captured during the June War.

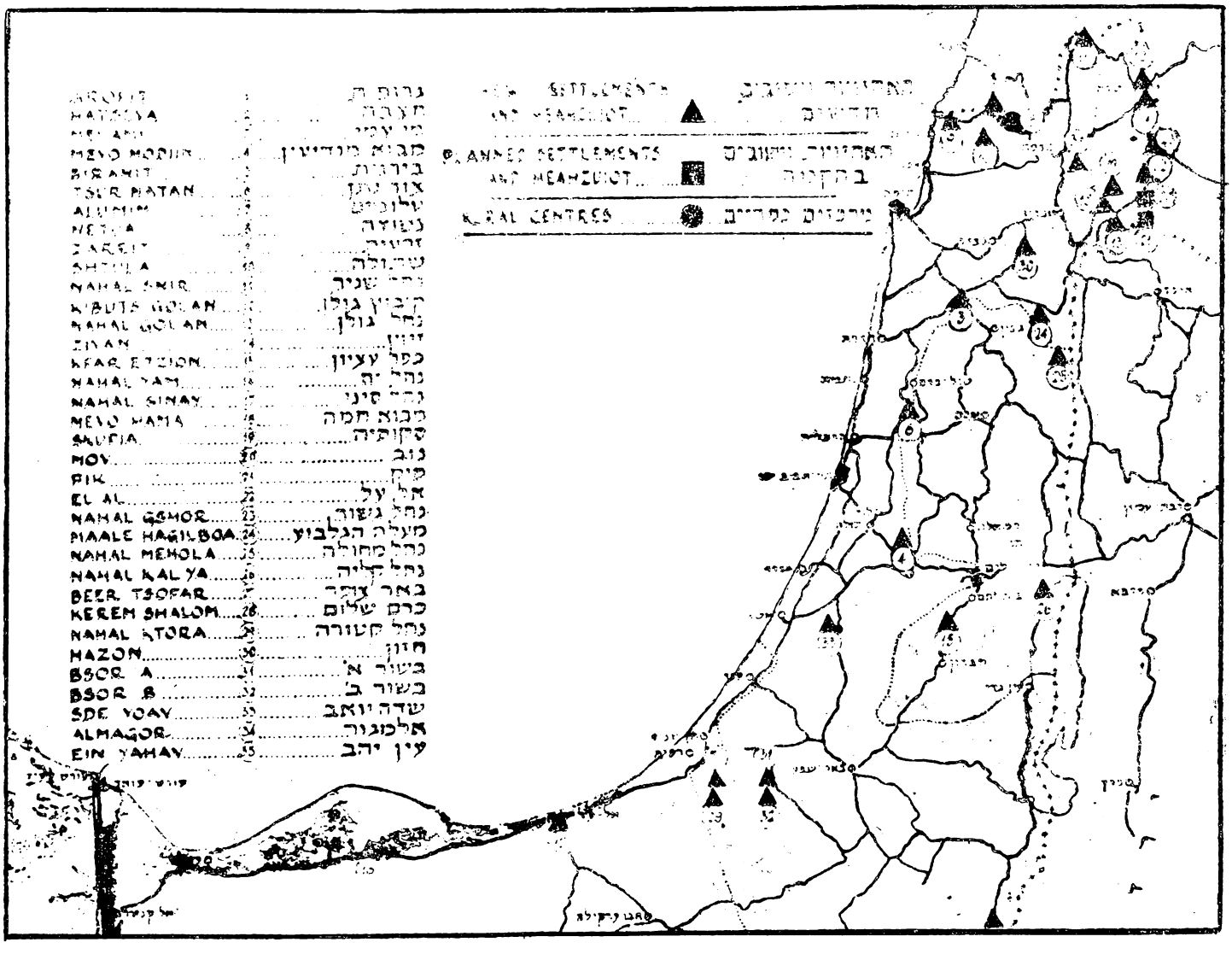
(New York Herald Tribune, *16 January, 1968*)

In a letter dated 12 June 1968, the Jordanian Government officially complained to the Secretary-General of the U.N., Mr U Thant, of new expropriations by Israel in the Jordanian sector of Jerusalem. 5,000 Arab residents have recently been compelled to leave their homes to be replaced by Jewish immigrants.

(*A.F.P., 19 June 1968,* L'Orient)

Moshe Dayan, Defence Minister of Israel : « From the Mediterranean to the Jordan River, it is all Israeli territory. I see the Jordan River as our frontier and the Judean Heights as the basis of defense of this frontier ».

(*The Israeli Newspapers,* Maariv *and* Yedioth Aharonoth, *reported in* Le Monde *20 June 1968*)



The above map was published by the London **Times** on 20 June 1968. This map was submitted to the World Zionist Congress meeting in Jerusalem in June. It shows the sites of 35 new Jewish colonies to be established in the occupied Arab territories.

Levi Eshkol, Prime Minister of Israel : « The Jordan River is the natural border of Israel ».

(The Economist, *2 March 1968*)

Levi Eshkol, Prime Minister of Israel : «The Jordan River is the natural border of Israel ».

(*A.F.P. 23 June 1968,* L'Orient)

5 Arab residents of Jerusalem, including 3 women, who were resisting being forcibly turned out of their homes by the Israeli authorities, were today arrested and jailed.

(*AFP, 12 June 1968, Al-Anwar*)

Errata

On the back page, the two quotations from Levi Eshkol should be under the heading « Expansionism » on the same page, and the quotation from Al-Anwar should be under « *The Happy Unification of Jerusalem* » on page 5.